



Rodger Schlickeisen  
President

April 19, 2006

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
239 Dirksen Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and our more than 490,000 members, I am writing to thank you for supporting increased funding for implementation of the Endangered Species Act, our nation's most important wildlife protection law. We greatly appreciate your joining a letter to Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Conrad Burns and Ranking Member Byron Dorgan urging increases of \$35 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species programs.

For more than 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has helped prevent the extinction of our nation's wildlife treasures. Because of the act, beloved symbols of America such as the bald eagle, the Florida manatee and the California condor are all thriving. Only nine of the 1800 plants and animals currently protected by the act have been declared extinct, an astonishing success rate, making the act a true symbol of our nation's successful commitment to protecting our natural heritage for future generations.

The Endangered Species Act's outstanding successes have been achieved despite severe and chronic funding shortfalls in federal funding hampering its implementation. The funding increases requested in your letter would help provide the Fish and Wildlife Service with critically needed resources and staff to speed recovery of threatened and endangered plants and animals; to assist federal agencies, private landowners and other stakeholders in avoiding harm to listed species while moving forward with projects; to give financial assistance to landowners who wish to voluntarily enhance threatened and endangered species and habitat on their property; and to make progress in listing the more than 280 candidates awaiting the act's protection. Your support demonstrates recognition of the importance in providing adequate financial resources if we hope to move forward more quickly in recovering our nation's threatened and endangered wildlife.

Again, thank you for your support for this critically needed funding. We look forward to continuing our work with you.

Sincerely,

  
Rodger Schlickeisen

*We appreciate your  
standing up for a strong  
Endangered Species Act.*

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